

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/17
23 June 1993

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Vienna, 14-25 June 1993
Agenda item 10

CONSIDERATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY
AND THE UNIVERSAL ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, KEEPING IN VIEW
THE INTERRELATIONSHIP AND INDIVISIBILITY OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL,
CULTURAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Note by the Secretary-General

Note verbale dated 21 June 1993 from the Austrian Federal Ministry
for Foreign Affairs addressed to the Secretary-General of the
World Conference on Human Rights

The Austrian Delegation to the World Conference on Human Rights presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights and has the honour to submit the report of a panel discussion on "Human rights, democracy and development", organized by the Austrian Society for Foreign Policy and International Relations which was held on 17 June 1993 on the occasion of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

The Austrian Delegation respectfully requests that the enclosed report be issued as a document of the World Conference on Human Rights under item 10 of the agenda.

Human rights, democracy and development

On the occasion and within the overall framework of the World Conference on Human Rights, the Austrian Society for Foreign Policy and International Relations organized on 17 June 1993 a panel discussion to explore the interrelationships existing between human rights, democracy and development.

Under the chairmanship of the former President of the Philippines, Ms. Corazon Aquino, and following a keynote address by Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, statements were made by Mr. Ariel François, Deputy Director for Europe, United Nations Development Programme, Professor Wangari Maathai, President of the Greenbelt Movement and winner of the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize (Kenya), Mr. Ibrahim Shihata, Vice-President of the World Bank and Mr. Lee Swepston, Coordinator for Human Rights Questions, International Labour Organisation. Numerous other participants from the audience also took the floor. Ambassador Walther Lichem (Austria) served as Rapporteur. The debate brought consensus on the following conclusions:

1. The sterile debate of the past about the relationship between human rights, democracy and development has been a consequence of the conditions of the cold war. Human rights were repeatedly considered an enemy of development. It has now been generally recognized that there can be no real development unless it focuses on the human being in all its dimensions as its ultimate goal, including the development of human rights and of democratic processes and institutions.
2. The segmented and sectoral approach to development belongs to the past. Development is more than the aggregation of economic indicators. While of great importance, economic growth is not identical with development. In fact, there is no development unless it is comprehensive, encompassing not only the economic but also the social, cultural, political and even civic and normative dimensions. The respect for and effective protection of human rights are an essential condition for achieving real development. Democracy is a cornerstone of the protection of human rights.
3. Development must be people-centred. It must not serve limited elites but be "of the people, by the people and for the people". There cannot be economic development now and political development later. Recent examples have amply demonstrated the inherent failure of such disjointed approaches.
4. Development must be participatory. The people affected by development projects must be partners in the process and have the right to be heard. New forms of decentralized decision-making and ways to assure dialogue with national as well as international development agencies are to be explored. Participatory development requires good governance, accountability, transparency and democratic control of decision-making. Development policies hence must be extended to deal with the institutional as well as normative set-up. The participation of people in development holds a key to the effective protection of human rights. People are to be empowered by cooperative grass-root organizations and non-governmental organizations. Broadly based programmes of human rights education are essential.

5. Development must be sustainable. This refers also to the ability of the people concerned and affected to sustain the processes of change after outside assistance has ended.
6. Human development promotes peace and security both within countries and among nations.
7. Development must be a joint responsibility. Only solidarity allows for progress by humankind.
8. Human development requires a new interdisciplinary focus on both human rights and democracy as well as on development. Jurists who for too long dominated the human rights debate must accept the contributions from the other development-related social science disciplines. Economists in turn must take account of the institutions and processes of societal standard-setting, including in particular with regard to human rights.
9. Human rights, democratic processes and development are indivisible. They were traditionally dealt with by separate institutions. Only recently, linking of these issues was made possible on the governmental level as well as within the United Nations. This represents, both conceptually and institutionally, a major challenge for the future.
10. Only the integration of human rights, democracy and development in a holistic approach can provide real development and the "capacity to be human".
